

Senate Resolution 1039

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Fort of the 39th, Tarver of the 22nd, Brown of the 26th, Jones of the 10th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Robert Michael Franklin, Jr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Robert Michael Franklin, Jr., is a graduate and the tenth president of Morehouse
3 College, the nation's largest, private four-year liberal arts college for men; and
- 4 WHEREAS, before joining Morehouse, Mr. Franklin was a Presidential Distinguished
5 Professor of Social Ethics at Emory University, where he provided leadership for a university
6 initiative entitled "Confronting the Human Condition and the Human Experience" and was
7 a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at the law school; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin is widely recognized throughout the state as the personification
9 of excellence in education; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Morehouse in 1975 with a degree in political
11 science and religion, and continued his education at Harvard Divinity School earning a
12 master of divinity degree in Christian social ethics and pastoral care in 1978, and the
13 University of Chicago, earning his doctorate in ethics and society, and religion and the social
14 sciences in 1985; and
- 15 WHEREAS, in 2001, he received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Bethune
16 Cookman College and he undertook international study at the University of Durham, UK,
17 as a 1973 English Speaking Union Scholar; and
- 18 WHEREAS, this highly respected professional educator has served on the faculties of the
19 University of Chicago, Harvard Divinity School, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, and
20 Emory University's Candler School of Theology; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1997, he assumed the presidency of the Interdenominational Theological
2 Center, the graduate theological seminary of the Atlanta University Center consortium, and
3 he served as the Chautauqua Institution's Theologian in Residence for the 2005 season; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin is an esteemed author, is active in a wide range of organizations,
5 and is a seasoned traveler, having studied seven languages in several countries around the
6 globe; and

7 WHEREAS, he is the recipient of a Ford Foundation grant to examine religion in public life
8 in Asia and produced National Public Radio commentaries based on this research, and since
9 2003, he has served as a consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation; and

10 WHEREAS, he is married to Dr. Cheryl Goffney Franklin, an OB-GYN, and they have three
11 children, Imani Renee Franklin, Robert M. Franklin III, and Julian Michael DeShazier; and

12 WHEREAS, he is an exemplary example of the important impact that the efforts of
13 individual education professionals are making on the quality of education received in this
14 state, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that his superlative accomplishments be
15 recognized appropriately.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
17 heartily and gratefully commend Mr. Robert Michael Franklin, Jr., for his foresight,
18 accomplishment, and contributions on behalf of education in Georgia and for the positive
19 influence he has had upon the lives and futures of countless young people in this state and
20 extend to him their most sincere best wishes for the future.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
22 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Robert Michael Franklin, Jr.